

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**March 21, 2019**  
**Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center**  
**7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917**

**MINUTES**

**Meet and Greet: 8:30-9:30 a.m.**

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Kristie Zamora, State Advisory Commission on Aging (SAC) Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and welcomed all.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge was led by Gerald McCole.

**Roll Call:** Kelly Cooper called roll and a quorum was present.

**Present:** Commissioner Kristie Zamora, State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC), Chairperson, Wendy White, SAC Co-Vice Chairperson, Edna Albert, Alan Bond, Dennis Brieske, Glenn Clemence, Charles Corwin, Sara Damiano, Sandra Falk-Michaels, Audra Frye, Marjorie Hobe, Debra Johnson, Ruby Kickert, Kirk Lewis, Gerald McCole, Ann Randolph, Patricia Rencher, Joseph Sowmick, Joseph Sucher, Elizabeth Thompson, Jo Ver Beek, Susan Vick, Mark Weber, Lori Wells, Lillie Williams-Grays, Karen Wintringham, John Zimmerman and Ex-Officio Member: Robyn Ford

**Excused:** Donald Ryan, SAC Co-Vice Chairperson, Mary Jones, Victoria Laupp, Angela Perone, and Teresa Vear

**Absent:** Mary Engelman, Ex Officio Member

**Guest Commissioners:** Matthew Adeyanju and Kathleen LaTosch

**Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) Staff Present:** Scott Wamsley, Phil Lewis, Lauren Swanson-Aprill, and Kelly Cooper

**Guest Speakers:** Rachel Telder, AASA and Jean Ruestman, MDOT

**Recommended Actions:**

**Approval of the Agenda:** Charles Corwin moved to accept the agenda as presented. Jo Ver Beek seconded the motion. The SAC unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Gerald McCole moved to accept the October 25, 2018, minutes and Susan Vick seconded. The SAC unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

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**Council Chairperson Report:**

***Introduce New SAC Members:*** Chairperson Zamora thanked all members for attending and for their hard work on behalf of the SAC. She welcomed Guest Commissioners Matthew Adeyanju and Kathleen LaTosch. Following, Chair Zamora also welcomed Marjorie Hobe, Ruby Kickert, Mark Weber, and Lori Wells, newly appointed SAC Members. Glenn Clemence was welcomed back as a returning SAC member. Additionally, Commissioner Zamora congratulated Alan Bond, Gerald McCole, and Susan Vick, who were reappointed to the SAC. Appointment and reappointment letters from the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging Chair, Commissioner Wishart were presented to the members.

SAC members made introductions and told a little about themselves for the benefit of the Council and new members.

Dennis Brieske, who is representing the SAC on the selection committee for the Senior Citizen of the Year Award, announced that nominations for the Senior Citizen of the Year Award are due by April 4 and asked that members put the word out to their regions and contacts. The winner of this award will be presented during Older Michiganians' Day on May 15, 2019.

***Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) Update:*** Commissioner Matthew Adeyanju introduced himself to the SAC. He shared that this is his fifth year serving on the CSA and that he would be serving until 2020. He thanked all SAC members for their dedication and their hard work. Additionally, he wanted to convey a message provided to the CSA by Commission Chair Dona Wishart to all SAC members, who are volunteers, that with the dedication we have for volunteering and helping others, maintaining balance in our lives is very important.

Next, Commissioner Adeyanju reviewed a handout he prepared describing background information about the CSA. He also highlighted the routine reports provided by the CSA and SAC Chairs, the CSA Advocacy and Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) Committee Chairs, and the AASA Senior Deputy Director, Deputy Director, and Public Affairs Specialist. Business items and announcements were also shared.

***SAC 2019 Volunteerism Report:*** Lauren Swanson-Aprill presented in Co-Vice Chair Ryan's absence. She thanked everyone for distributing the volunteerism report in their regions and offered the remaining copies of the report to the new members and any other members to distribute in their regions. SAC members did a great job in getting the report in the hands of people in their regions and members shared how they distributed the report.

- Dennis Brieske (Region 3C) wrote and sent a press release in his region (he gave a handout to all members present) because he felt that this report had a much broader scope than previous SAC reports. Dennis also made sure to give

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the press release a local slant that made the press release more meaningful for the people he sent it to. He mailed the full report to Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey—R—Clarklake, who represents Branch County. He also gave the full report to the AAA Director, two Commission on Aging directors, the United Way Director and the Community Foundation Director. He sent the press release to the Coldwater Daily Reporter and the Kiwanis Michigan Builder, for the emailed statewide newsletter. Dennis suggested that SAC members may wish to develop a news release for their regions and urged that members focus on getting it to those who will market and distribute it to citizens on our behalf. The report is so relevant to so many organizations in local communities and throughout the state.

- Susan Vick (Region 9) liked Dennis' ideas. In her region, the Crawford County Commission on Aging invited her to present the SAC report at their board meeting. They were given a copy beforehand to read and were very happy with the report.
- Elizabeth Thompson (Region 1B), who formerly served as the Ex-Officio SAC member from the Michigan Women's Commission (MWC), recognized that many older Michiganders are women and felt it was important to share the SAC Volunteerism report with the MWC Director, the 15 members of the Women's Commission, and the liaisons from various state departments.
- Audra Frye, (Region 1C) again this year, shared the SAC report with the faith-based community including the Presbyterian Villages CEO, Senior Regional Collaborative, Faith Talk Radio event with over 300 pastors in attendance.
- Joseph Sowmick (Region 7) sent the report to 12 federally-recognized tribes throughout the state, health directors (both hard copy and email), and tribes within southwest Michigan and the Grand Rapids area.
- Jo Ver Beek (Region 8) distributed the report to the Michigan Adult Day Service Association (MADSA) and the members were extremely grateful to receive the report.
- Patricia Rencher (1A) passed it out to the leadership of the Michigan Alzheimer's Association and they were particularly happy because they are really focusing efforts on how to best utilize their volunteers within their association.

Chair Zamora thanked members for their time, effort, and ingenuity in giving this report to as many people as possible and for using their connections and areas of expertise to get it to every faction of our state! She believes this report will continue to have "legs" and reach far and wide throughout Michigan.

**AASA Update:**

**Transition:** Acting Senior Deputy Director, Scott Wamsley introduced himself and expressed that he was happy to be presenting to the SAC today. He shared that it is currently budget time in state government and that the projected budget for fiscal year (FY) 2020 has been released. It is a flat budget, that was fully expected, and we appreciate that they are proposing to maintain AASA's budget as it stands now. AASA has been giving presentations to the Michigan House and Senate regarding our aging network structure and services, as well as the budget.

Senior Deputy Director Kline resigned from AASA and is now the Executive Director of Senior Services Southwest Michigan. We are happy that he will continue his work within the aging network. AASA will continue our work while the MDHHS leadership is searching for a replacement. AASA has not been through the process of hiring a Senior Deputy Director since being under the direction of the larger MDHHS department. Prior to this, AASA was a Type 1 Agency (we were autonomous) and the governor used to appoint a new director. Now that AASA is with MDHHS, the Director of MDHHS is in charge of hiring a new Senior Deputy Director. We are sure that leadership will be very thoughtful in choosing a new leader for AASA.

Scott Wamsley had a great opportunity to meet with Director Robert Gordon, the new Director of MDHHS one-on-one. Director Gordon was very interested in the AASA office and the aging network; he wanted to know about our challenges and the service provider network. He was very engaged and interested in what we do here in the aging network. MDHHS is also in the process of restructuring the leadership in the MDHHS administration. They are splitting the department into three areas with a chief deputy director for each area:

- Health (Population health, Medical Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration and Aging and Adult Services Agency)
- Administration (External Affairs and Communications, Finance Administration, and Legislative Services)
- Opportunity (Field Operations Administration and the Children's Services Agency)

**Three-year State and Area Plans:** Scott Wamsley shared that the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) are working on their multi-year plans. This is a three-year plan that is the guiding document for the AAAs. The plans are significant in scope, and he encouraged SAC members to attend their local regions' public hearings to learn what the plans entail and to also have input. The AAAs are required to seek public input and hold public meetings. Additionally, most county governments and municipalities are encouraged to get involved. We really want these to be locally driven and to receive the public's input. AASA's role is to ensure that state and federal guidelines are met when plans are announced. AASA is unique as an agency because we coordinate services and supports for older adults with local AAAs as well as with our state and federal partners.

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Assessments of the AAAs are currently being conducted by our AASA field reps. We, as an agency, want to know what is being planned (Annual Implementation Plans—AIPs), what's happening in the network, how AAAs are handling things, and end of the year close out information. AASA staff check all year long with the AAAs since issues are handled as they arise instead of waiting to site them when policies aren't followed. The Technical Assistance and Services Compliance (TASC) division is there to support agencies and, as a result, we have very few major issues. AASA staff are also finishing performance audits with the Office of the Auditor General.

Scott reported that the RSVP, Senior Companion, and Foster Grandparent Programs receive \$4.7 million in state funds. We are unique in that we are a state with one of the highest levels of state support. We also have federal funds for these programs as well. However, there are changes being made at the federal level as the Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS) is consolidating their offices by closing the Detroit office. There will be a regional office in Columbus, Ohio. AASA is in close communication with the Detroit CNCS office about the changes and AASA will continue to support and fund these programs (with legislative support).

Scott acknowledged that SAC member, John Zimmerman had made a request to learn about any other programs in state government, besides the ones AASA administers, that support older adults. AASA staff are still working on this. It is a bit complicated because the legislature uses line items and it is sometimes complicated to see the specifics. Different programs throughout the state have different age group requirements, which vary including 50+, 55+, or 60+. AASA staff are continuing to work on getting the information.

In conclusion, Scott asked for any questions from SAC: Patricia Rencher (Region 1A) asked if AASA has received any service complaints. Scott explained that we are happy to report AASA receives very few because they are primarily handled at the local level. AASA staff asked our AAAs how many have had formal complaints brought to them, and they only reported receiving about five complaints.

If there is no resolution at the local level, where does AASA direct people? Scott explained that AASA's operating standards require that there is a process in place for complaints. AASA staff would always direct people to first go through the AAA process and then, if not there, come to us. AASA staff would then look at whether the AAA followed their own procedures.

Joseph Sowmick (Region 7) asked for clarification if we were encouraging advocacy during the AIP process at the local level? Scott answered that the AAA is required to submit all comments and testimony provided both verbally during meetings as well as any written comments received to AASA. Also, there is a review of the AIPs at the local level and with county commissioners, municipalities, etc.

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Glenn Clemence (Region 5) asked how we were addressing a problem we all have--scams? Many older adults are getting scammed via phone calls. What can we do about that? Who can he contact? Scott said typically these are mainly regulated at the federal level. AASA does manage the Elder Abuse Prevent Grant Program the governor and legislature supported for the past few years and information about the program will be shared with SAC members. Phil Lewis added that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/>) has good information on their website and also that the Attorney General's Office will be doing more work soon on the issue.

**Legislative Update:** Phil Lewis reported that with a new governor and new legislature, this is typically the busiest time politically especially since the new government officials outline different priorities from the previous administration. We all know that with Governor Whitmer, roads are a big priority as well as auto insurance rates. AASA has been in contact with the House Families, Children, and Senior Committee and is paying close attention to as many legislative committees as possible to see what is happening around the state and what the priorities are. AASA was approached by the House Committee on Families, Children, and Seniors about what we do and how we do it. We were then asked to present to the entire committee. Handouts were provided to all SAC committee members of the presentation that was given by AASA and the highlights were reviewed.

Scott and Phil presented an overview of the aging network and then touched on the CSA's four main focus areas of Transportation, Direct Care Workforce, Elder Abuse and Exploitation Prevention, and Wait List Elimination now In-Home Services and Supports. The issue of direct care workforce received a follow-up question and additional information was provided to the committee as requested.

On March 7, Senior Deputy Director Richard Kline and Scott Wamsley presented to the House Appropriations Committee, and Phil reported that Scott did a great job. They are all still looking for a way to further support the direct care workforce.

As usual, the aging network had many advocacy groups testifying on behalf of older adults and the need to maintain or increase funding for services and supports. AASA is unique and very fortunate as other state agencies do not have as much support. Michigan's Aging Network is very vocal in explaining and advocating for our older adults. Testimony was provided by the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (AAAAM), AARP, and the senior volunteer programs. It was great to have this commitment and people recognizing the value of the work we do. The appropriation recommendation for FY 2020 is still a flat budget.

AASA will be presenting on April 10<sup>th</sup> before the House Appropriations Committee and the presentation will be similar to previous presentations. These can be seen on the House TV (<http://house.michigan.gov/htv.asp>). Previous presentations may also be viewed via this link (archives).

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***Older American's Act Reauthorization:*** The Older American's Act expires in September of 2019. There will be many groups getting together to discuss what changes, if any, are necessary or warranted. The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) is having a spring conference and will be looking at making recommendations. AASA will also look on a local and state level to see if changes should be recommended.

Gerald McCole said he would like to receive the legislative presentations and graphics in color. Phil said he will provide these for all SAC members. (They were sent.)

Pat Rencher noted that there were two calls of action recently. The Alzheimer's Association is saying that the MI Choice Waiver program is looking at possible funding cuts. Phil answered that the budget recommendation for this program was a little lower than last year. This may be a technical adjustment and not a cut. Even if it is a technical adjustment, it is still flat funded. The call of action was maybe to raise the funding by five percent. We are still trying to get more details on this cut/adjustment and will let the network know as soon as we have answers.

Mark Weber, as a new member, wanted to know who Phil was. Phil let the group know that he was charged with handling AASA public affairs and communication both externally and internally and serves as the AASA legislative liaison in partnership with MDHHS Legislative Services. He reports to the Senior Deputy Director of AASA.

Jo Ver Beek asked about the AASA presentation and why family informal care givers and home delivered meals were combined? Scott Wamsley explained that according to the Older Americans' Act Title III-E, National Family Caregiver Support Program, meals may be used as a supplemental meal for caregivers. Jo also asked if the funding comes out of the respite care budget. Scott said "Yes, but it is nice because we get additional dollars federally this way."

Lori Wells asked if the statistics listed in the AASA legislative reports were only referring to services being provided by AAAs? Is there any place that is tracking those services not funded through AASA and the AAAs? Scott explained that there are 70 counties that have local millages and other systems in place locally that AASA does not have oversight. Lori wondered if AASA can advocate for those not receiving funds? Scott said that AASA completes an impact analysis on those entities providing services outside of the AASA purview.

Commissioner Zamora thanked Scott and Phil for their excellent presentations and all the work they do on behalf of the aging network.

**BREAK**

**CSA/SAC Advocacy Committee Update:** Commissioners LaTosch and Adeyanju introduced themselves and expressed that they were happy to have the opportunity to speak to the SAC. The CSA Advocacy Committee's 2019 Framework & Timeline of Activities handout was distributed to SAC members, which outlines the Values and Guiding Principles of the CSA Advocacy Committee as well as gives a framework and timeline for the CSA's 2019 advocacy activities. Commissioner LaTosch explained that her role is to talk about the efforts and how it connects to the SAC charge for 2019. She reiterated statements from the previous CSA Advocacy Committee lead, former Commissioner Donna Murray-Brown, in that they were still "building the plane while flying," so-to-speak. The framework was developed to provide a visual picture of how the parts connect.

Commissioner LaTosch commended Commissioners Joan Ilardo, Nancy Duncan, and Matthew Adeyanju for serving on the committee. She stressed the importance of public comments that Scott Wamsley had mentioned and that many of the advocacy bullet points were gleaned from those public comments. The CSA Advocacy Committee wants to be action oriented and will be educating government officials and legislators as well as connecting with other advocacy efforts. She reviewed the handout and said that work teams started some of their advocacy efforts last year.

Commissioner LaTosch shared that SAC member Don Ryan has worked very hard with her on the In-Home Supports and Services Work Team hosting a series of learning sessions with representation across the state. Regarding the work of the SAC during 2019 in support of the CSA Advocacy Committee's goals, the CSA is looking forward to receiving information from the SAC between August-October of 2019. She also invited one-two SAC members to serve on each work team. This would be separate from the one-year SAC research charge. Any interested SAC members should connect with Kristie Zamora or Lauren Swanson-Aprill. Following, Commissioner LaTosch invited questions from the SAC.

Lori Wells asked--with regard to the SAC creating a compendium of AAA innovative solutions across the state--are we looking at anything other than AAA efforts? Commissioner LaTosch explained that the Committee and the SAC are hoping to gain insights from every AAA region into new initiatives and successful programs regarding the four legislative priorities. It was decided that the SAC would first ask the AAAs for information and then branch out to other experts/programs as needed.

Commissioner LaTosch gave a shout out to Phil for all of his efforts and asked if he had anything to add. Phil explained that with the AASA merger into MDHHS, we do not have as much opportunity to engage with the governor's office. It has been great to see the advocacy stepping up and working to get the important message out there.



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Commissioner Adeyanju stated that they were looking for the unique and varied expertise from all SAC members, and shared that he read the Direct Care Workforce report that was published by the SAC in 2016, four times. He was impressed by the great work that was done on the report and noted that there were 12 recommendations in the report that the Direct Care Work Team will review. Commissioner Adeyanju opened the meeting for any questions of the Advocacy Committee.

Elizabeth Thompson noted that there had been talk for a year or longer about SAC members working with the CSA Advocacy Committee. She wondered if this was the same effort but more of a restart? Commissioner LaTosch explained that it was because of attrition on the CSA, this is a new opportunity to get involved.

Ann Randolph wondered if the CSA was looking for professionals in each area or those with personal experience living it? Kathleen LaTosch said that they certainly value all kinds of input. Matthew Adeyanju added that we should remember we are all in this together, and whatever your area is, your input is important.

***Wait List Elimination Task Force:*** Commissioner LaTosch explained that the Wait List Group (now renamed In-Home Supports and Services), along with members Scott Wamsley, AASA and Don Ryan, Co-Vice Chair of SAC, had been hosting monthly meetings with statewide representation to best understand the complexity of the issue.

At the end of last year, the CSA Advocacy Committee developed an information packet about the Older Michiganian's Act and the Michigan Aging Network for the incoming new governor and legislature. The document included a primer on all four advocacy priorities. Following, it was approved by the CSA and provided to the Governor's Office. In turn, CSA representatives were invited to a meeting with the new governor's transition team to discuss the document.

Phil added that this document was sent to the legislature and the congressional delegation. Commissioner Adeyanju asked if we could get a copy of this document to SAC and Lauren explained that it had already been shared with the SAC.

Glenn Clemence asked, in regard to the direct care workforce crisis, how much education is needed? What is the attraction to workers? Lauren explained that training is very important for quality of care and for building self-confidence of the workers. The training program (75-hours) for certified nursing assistants (CNAs) can be expensive \$1,000 or more, and some nursing homes are approved to hold CNA trainings where potential CNAs may be trained. The training fee may be waived if the CNAs work for the nursing home for a certain period of time following the training. In terms of training personal care assistants (PCAs) who provide home care, the state does not have a required standardized training program.

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However, AASA, MSU, and master trainers from AAA Region 10 have been working for years on implementing the Building Training...Building Quality™ (BTBQ™) a 77-hour training program for PCAs with the goal of standardizing the BTBQ™ program across the state. We are currently implementing a Michigan Health Endowment Fund grant to train BTBQ™ trainers through the Integrated Model for Personal Assistant Research and Training (IMPART) program.

**Business Items:**

**SAC Meeting Schedule:** The SAC meeting schedule, provided in SAC members' packets, was reviewed. The next face-to-face meeting is April 19, 2019, at the Aging and Adult Services Agency building, 333 S. Grand Avenue in Lansing. This meeting will be joint with the Commission on Service to the Aging. The Gatekeeper of the Year Award winners will be presented during a luncheon honoring the winners, and following, a public hearing will be held.

**SAC Mileage Reimbursement:** Kelly Cooper, SAC Support, asked all new members to follow the instructions provided to them when they set up their Vendor Account in SIGMA to be able to receive mileage reimbursement. She reminded members that the State of Michigan no longer requires their signature on the reimbursement forms and that we may only reimburse for MapQuest miles from one address to the other. Kelly will submit all travel vouchers for members. All those who attended the October SAC meeting received their mileage reimbursement. SAC members were asked to please check their records to be sure that there are no issues with previous payments and if members have any problems getting reimbursed, please contact Kelly at 517-284-0182.

**SAC Applicant Recruitment:** Lauren shared that with the newly appointed members, we now have SAC members representing every AAA region in Michigan. The following AAA regions each have one opening: Regions 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, and 14. Lauren asked members to please forward the SAC application and instructions to anyone interested in serving and applicants from diverse backgrounds are always welcome to apply. Lauren will send the application to all members. Questions were raised as to whether anyone else needs to reapply at this time. Lauren will send a reminder to all who need to reapply well before the Term Expiration date.

**CSA's 2019 Charge to the SAC Committee:** *Develop a compendium of AAA innovative solutions across the state relative to and impactful on the CSA Advocacy Committee's legislative priorities: Direct Care Workforce, Elder Abuse and Exploitation Prevention, Transportation Solutions, and Wait List Elimination (now In-Home Services and Supports).*

**Distribute SAC Survey Responses:** Survey responses were distributed to the SAC members for their review during the lunch session. Commissioner Zamora said that it was important for each SAC workgroup to look at the responses, then break into workgroups to see what can be done with the knowledge gleaned from the responses.

***Break into 2019 Workgroups to Review Responses:***

Members broke into their workgroups during lunch and reviewed the surveys.

**Informational Items:**

***Introduction and Presentation:*** Lauren introduced co-worker Rachel Telder, Transportation Liaison from Aging and Adult Services Agency. Next, Rachel introduced Jean Ruestman, Administrator with the Office of Passenger Transportation for the Michigan Department of Transportation who provided a presentation to the SAC regarding the \$8 Million for the Michigan Mobility Challenge Grants being implemented around the state.

**Workgroups Report Back:**

***The Blue Group:*** Chuck Corwin reported that they wanted to relook at the questionnaires once the rest of the AAAs respond because there may be great ideas from those AAAs we have not heard from yet. He cautioned that when making reports of innovative ideas, that people need to make sure that the great ideas presented fit the demographics for a region. We need to be comparing apples to apples. Chuck shared that one thing was clear when looking at the reports with regard to transportation--there simply are not enough resources, whether rural or inner-city. He also wanted to confirm that with the direct care workforce, the BTBQ™ program was more focused on home support using a person-centered approach, and the CNA certification was more tailored for nursing home support.

***Seventh Heaven:*** Sandra Falk-Michaels reported that her group was surprised to see that nine out of 16 AAAs had responded to the survey and hoped that all AAAs would eventually submit. As varied as the responses are, they support the selection of the CSA's four topics selected as advocacy priorities for the entire State of Michigan. Overall the information provided was good but led us to many more questions about the information the AAAs provided. Additional information would allow us to understand the specific challenges (unique to each area) that led to their unique solutions. We noted that with the CSA's redefinition of Wait List Elimination to In-Home Services and Supports, the advocacy topic of DCWs may now be considered a subtopic of In-Home Services and Supports.

DCW responses were contracted services/vendor-heavy. They do not address unpaid caregivers as a solution to unfilled service plans (involve service clubs and volunteers--with education). Mishandling of funds, lack of training grants, insufficient services and supports for demand, DCW training, low wages and time/ability to complete paperwork are common problems.

Elder Abuse and Exploitation Prevention must consider all three areas – physical, emotional, and financial. Seems to be much talk about financial, but surveys focused on physical. We should not downplay the importance of any of the three areas.

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For Transportation, cross-county limitations seem to be a common problem, and perhaps the biggest problem faced across our state. The quest for a solution to Transportation challenges must consider both rural and urban communities. Overall conclusion – We will be interested to see how the other AAAs respond to the surveys. So far, survey responses pointed us to developing more/deeper questions for a future survey.

***TGIF:***

Elizabeth Thompson noted that the Myride.com website is a resource list of transportation providers. The providers aren't necessarily specialized or low-cost, which can be problematic. Rideline is reported to be excellent. It is a little different because it's dispatched. Their funding source is the Kent County senior millage. As we move forward, we really need to think about funding sources. She also noted that "innovative" may have been an incorrect term as AAA staff completing the survey may think because they've been doing things for a while, they may not think of them as innovative. It was agreed with the SAC that we will need to circle back with the AAAs to clarify their answers or to dig deeper.

***Team Bob:*** Glenn Clemence reported that his group discussed the direct care workforce survey responses and he is very impressed by the work being done.

It was determined that the survey will be reopened for those AAAs that were not able to respond may do so during the next few weeks. Additionally, when all of the responses are received, they will be compiled and sent to the SAC before the April 19 meeting so members may review the responses ahead of time.

Kelly Cooper shared that every year the CSA recognizes the Gatekeeper of the Year, chosen from among the 12 Monthly Gatekeeper winners. Nominees from Consumers Energy and DTE are submitted to AASA every month to be considered for the monthly award. These staff are nominated for being the eyes and ears in the community and sharing concerns about older adults they have encountered who are in need of various supports or services.

**Announcements:**

***For the Good of the Group:***

- Chuck Corwin shared that Roscommon County opened a new adult day facility, which has already provided 100 service hours of adult care.
- Joseph Sowmick announced that the Second Annual Statewide Tribal Opioid Summit will be held June 12-13 with the Central Michigan College of Medicine at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant. Lauren will forward the notice to SAC members. (The information was sent.)
- Ann Randolph suggested that a resource toolkit be developed to share with those who have a life-changing health events like a stroke outlining where to go to find assistance.

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- Pat Rencher learned when talking to southeast Michigan's three AAA directors about reauthorizing the Older American's Act, that in addition to strengthening and improving the Act, having flexibility to the budget's line items would be of great help. If they were allowed to reapply funds not being used to different line items where services are needed, waitlists could be reduced.
- Mark Weber thanked Lauren and Kelly for providing him with the orientation to the SAC.
- Joseph Sucher welcomed Mark to the SAC.
- Elizabeth Thompson shared information about elder abuse, especially telephone scams. She stated that public service announcements on the radio and printed material may be more helpful informational tools, as many people do not have access to computer-based information and websites.
- Sarah Damiano asked if she was supposed to be involved with the Wait List work team. Lauren shared that this work team formed a new special task force to review the issues. If the work team needs further research completed, they will notify the SAC at a later time.
- Wendy White shared that her home care agency is beginning to provide the entire 22-module Building Training...Building Quality™ (BTBQ™) personal care assistant (PCA) training program. Under the Going Pro Talent Fund Grant she received from the Michigan Talent Investment Agency of the Talent and Economic Development Department of Michigan, Wendy's BTBQ™ trainer candidate was able to train 10 PCAs in Module 1—Key Concepts of being a PCA.
- Wendy reported that Co-Vice Chair Donald Ryan was very excited that March 29, 2019, has been designated as the National Vietnam War Veterans Day, which was chosen because this is the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam.
- Wendy also shared that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has a pension program for Veterans and surviving spouses that includes Aid & Attendance/Home care benefits. To be eligible, veterans need to have served 90 consecutive days of active duty with at least one day served during war time. Wendy's agency has partnered with Veterans Care™ Coordination which is a VA-accredited organization that assists eligible veterans and their spouses in completing all needed documents for submission and approval. Audra Frye explained this is a helpful service since veterans must be very careful in completing the forms as there are many who have tried to complete the forms themselves, but they never heard back or were turned down once they were submitted.

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**Next Meeting:**

**Joint Commission on Services to the Aging and State Advisory Council on Aging  
Meeting  
Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services  
333 S. Grand Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48933  
April 19, 2019  
9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 p.m.**

**Debrief and Follow-Up: 2:45-3:30.**